



HISTORIC CHICAGO  
BUNGALOW ASSOCIATION

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:  
Karin Sullivan – MK Communications  
(312) 822-0505; karin@mkepr.com

### **Bungalow owners in Chicago Home Energy Savers program see big drop in energy bills**

*Pilot program aims to cut bungalow owners' energy use by 30%*

CHICAGO (April 23, 2010) – Auburn Gresham bungalow owner Emily Lesueur was worried. Already on a tight budget due to a long-term disability, she was concerned that when she retired in a few years and her income dipped further, she'd no longer be able to afford her home. But thanks to her recent participation in the Chicago Home Energy Savers (CHES) pilot program, a partnership between the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association and the Chicagoland Natural Gas Savings Program, Lesueur has seen her energy usage drop so sharply that she's confident she'll be able to remain in the historic--and now energy efficient--bungalow she's called home for four years.

“When I thought about retirement, my big question was, ‘How am I going to eat? How am I going to pay the gas bill?’” said Lesueur, whose energy bills have dropped by 30%. “This program literally has been life-altering. It's made it possible for me to install energy-efficient measures that I wouldn't have been able to afford.”

Lesueur is one of 52 owners of Historic Chicago Bungalows in neighborhoods throughout the city who have been selected for a pilot program. Through the program, HCBA-certified bungalows receive grant funding for a variety of energy-saving measures with a goal of lowering their energy usage by 30%.

After an energy audit is completed to determine the most cost-effective energy efficiency measures for the home, participants received one or more of a variety of equipment and services to make their homes more energy efficient. These included insulation, air sealing, high efficiency heating systems and low-flow shower heads and water aerators. Homeowners also attended an energy-efficiency seminar to learn various behavioral changes that can help them decrease their overall energy use in their homes.

The CHES partnership with the HCBA is a pilot program that, through case studies and realized energy savings, will help provide the necessary results on which to model future energy efficiency programs and assist many homeowners throughout Chicago. “We at the City are very enthusiastic about the CHES program. We believe it provides a model for expansion to bungalows throughout the city, helping us to meet the goals of the Chicago Climate Action Plan (CCAP). CCAP has, as an important cornerstone, improving the

efficiency of 400,000 homes throughout the city to achieve a 30% reduction in energy used by the year 2020,” said Suzanne Malec-McKenna, commissioner of the City of Chicago Department of Environment.

According to Chicagoland administrator Annette Beitel, Historic Chicago Bungalows presented a perfect target and the HCBA a perfect partner for the pilot program.

“Built between 1910 and 1940 and built to last for another century, these ubiquitous homes, with their sound but aging structures and outmoded heating and cooling systems, create a perfect environment in which to test the savings that can be derived from energy retrofits. And the HCBA, with its more than 10,000 members and track record in renovation and energy conservation, is a great partner providing the outreach to communities that is critical to the program’s success.”

While CHES leaders extol the program for its demonstration of the energy savings that can be had, the HCBA sees the program as an essential part of the Association’s preservation work.

“We see energy conservation as a critical issue for the city’s historic bungalow owners,” explained Mary Ellen Guest, executive director of the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association. “For some owners, the savings allow them to make further renovations and improvements to their home, while for others the savings make the difference in whether they can stay in their home as their life circumstances change. For the owners and for the neighborhoods, this is a great program.”

Austin bungalow owners and CHES participants Mark Henning and Cornelia McNamara are happy to be reaping the benefits of the pilot program. Since receiving insulation and air sealing, not only did their furnace usage decline noticeably this winter, but they also no longer have to use a space heater in their two-year-old son’s bedroom.

“It’s been fantastic to save money on our energy bills,” Henning said. “The bungalow is the perfect urban way of living, and it’s been nice to make things a little less stressful moneywise. We’re very grateful to the folks at the Bungalow Association, because they made it happen.”

The HCBA has long been a pioneer in the area of energy savings, initiating its first “Green Bungalow Block” in 2002, and providing EnergySavers grants to more than 2,000 homes since that time. The HCBA currently is working with the Center for Neighborhood Technology to analyze data from the CHES program, and a preliminary report will be available later this year; a complete report that includes data from the 2010-11 heating season will be released next year.

For further information on the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association, please visit [www.chicagobungalow.org](http://www.chicagobungalow.org). For further information about rebates for energy efficient products available to all Chicago residents, please visit the Chicagoland Natural Gas Savings Program website at [www.conservationrebates.com](http://www.conservationrebates.com).

###